

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 5, 8 through 16, and 18 through 35 are canceled. New claims 36 and 37 have been added. All of the pending claims are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Previously presented) A process for preparing at least one sample for a method of detecting and quantifying a total amount of HIV nucleic acid present in the at least one sample, said process comprising:

- a) administering at least 100 microliters of the at least one sample to a piece of filter paper capable of absorbing the at least one sample, wherein the absorption results in at least one spot of the at least one sample on the filter paper,
- b) drying the filter paper having the absorbed at least one spot of the at least one sample,
- c) storing the filter paper for at least one week,
- d) excising the at least one spot of the at least one sample from the surrounding filter paper,
- e) extracting nucleic acid from the at least one spot of the at least one sample with a chaotropic nucleic acid isolation solution,
- f) detecting HIV nucleic acid, if present, and
- g) quantifying the total amount of the HIV nucleic acid present in the at least one sample.

3. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein at least 200 μ l of the at least one sample is administered to the filter paper.

4. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein at least 250 μ l of the at least one sample is administered to the filter paper.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein at least two samples are administered to the filter paper.

7. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 2, further comprising administering a known amount of a reference nucleic acid to the filter paper.

8. through 16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein the HIV nucleic acid is from HIV-1.

18. through 35. (Canceled).

36. (New) A process for detecting an RNA of interest in at least one sample, the process comprising:

administering at least 250 μ l of the at least one sample and a known amount of a reference nucleic acid to a solid carrier capable of absorbing the at least one sample;

drying the solid carrier;

extracting a representative part of the at least one sample from the solid carrier with a nucleic acid isolation solution; and

detecting the RNA of interest, if present, in the representative part of the at least one sample.

37. (New) The process according to claim 36, wherein at least 500 μ l of the at least one sample is administered to said carrier.